

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERLIN 01568 111240Z

46

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CPR-01 INRE-00 DODE-00

PRS-01 SAJ-01 NSC-07 DRC-01 /053 W

----- 102372

O 111200Z SEP 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 3951

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USNATO 1400

CINCEUR FOR POLAD & OPS - IMMEDIATE

:CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS & AEAGG-COC IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD & OPS IMMEDIATE

USELMLO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1568

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MOPS, WB, GE

SUBJECT: APPREHENSION OF US SOLDIER AT CHECKPOINT CHARLIE

REF: BERLIN 1566

1. AFTER BEING UNABLE TO CONTACT SOVIET PROTOCOL OFFICER AGAIN IN COURSE OF NIGHT (PARA 7, REFTEL), MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER DELIVERED FOLLOWING STATEMENT PROTESTING DETENTION AND DEMANDING RELEASE OF MEDLEY TO DEPUTY SOVIET PROTOCOL OFFICER ADOMAITIS AT 1020 SEPTEMBER 11: "AT ABOUT 2200 ON 10 SEPTEMBER, SPECIALIST FOURTH CLASS WILLIAM S. MEDLEY, A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES FORCES, WAS DETAINED AT CHECKPOINT CHARLIE IN HIS PERSONAL AUTOMOBILE. AMERICAN PERSONNEL MADE FOUR ATTEMPTS TO REACH SPECIALIST MEDLEY DURING THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BERLIN 01568 111240Z

NEXT THREE HOURS, BUT WERE PREVENTED FROM DOING SO BY EAST

BERLIN GUARDS. AT ABOUT 0100 ON 11 SEPTEMBER, SPECIALIST MEDLEY WAS OBSERVED BEING ESCORTED FROM HIS VEHICLE BY SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL.

"I AM INSTRUCTED TO PROTEST THE DETENTION OF SPECIALIST MEDLEY, THE INTERFERENCE OF EAST BERLIN GUARDS WITH A U.S. OFFICER EXERCISING HIS RIGHT OF FREE CIRCULATION WITHIN GREATER BERLIN, AND THE FAILURE OF THE SOVIET OFFICERS IN THE AREA TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S. AUTHORITIES. THE U.S. AUTHORITIES DEMAND THAT SPECIALIST MEDLEY AND HIS VEHICLE BE RETURNED TO THEIR CUSTODY WITHOUT DELAY."

2. ADOMAITIS, WHO WAS UNAWARE OF INCIDENT, REQUESTED CLARIFICATION OF DETAILS OF DETENTION BUT DID NOT SPECULATE AS TO REASONS BEHIND IT. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT STATEMENT FOR INFORMATION AND BRING IT TO ATTENTION OF HIS SUPERIORS IMMEDIATELY. MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER REPEATED THAT WE EXPECTED IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF MEDLEY.

3. AT THIS POINT SOVIET PROTOCOL OFFICER ROMANOVSKIY JOINED MEETING AND WAS INFORMED OF PROTEST STATEMENT. HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN ABOUT TO MAKE PROTEST TO U.S. AUTHORITIES REGARDING INCIDENT. MEDLEY, HE ASSERTED, HAD COMMITTTED "SERIOUS CRIMES" AGAINST GDR AND FOR THIS REASON WAS BEING JUSTLY DETAINED IN EAST BERLIN PENDING TRIAL. U.S. DEMAND FOR HIS RELEASE COULD NOT BE MET. ROMANOVSKIY REFUSED EITHER TO SPECIFY NATURE OF "SERIOUS CRIME" OR TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION SOVIETS HAD DEVELOPED. IN RESPONSE TO MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER'S QUERY, ROMANOVSKIY SAID THAT MEDLEY HAD BEEN APPREHENDED BY SOVIET MILITARY OFFICERS FROM GSFG (WUENDSORG) AND WAS PRESENTLY BEING HELD IN SOVIET CUSTODY IN BERLIN. MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER DEMANDED IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO HIM. ROMANOVSKIY REPLIED THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE NOW, BUT PERHAPS LATER.

4. MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER EMPHASIZED ONCE AGAIN THAT, REGARDLESS OF CIRCUMSTANCES, MEDLEY HAD RIGHT TO FREE CIRCULATION THROUGHOUT GREATER BERLIN. HIS DETENTION WAS THEREFORE UNJUSTIFIED, AND HE SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED. ROMANOVSKIY REJECTED THIS ARUGMENT, AND ADDED, IN RESPONSE TO SECOND POINT IN U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BERLIN 01568 111240Z

STATEMENT, THAT EAST GERMAN GUARDS WERE JUSTIFIED IN REFUSING FURTHER ACCESS BY U.S. PERSONNEL WHILE INCIDENT SUCH AS THIS WAS IN PROGRESS. MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER DISPUTED THIS.

5. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING, ROMANOVSKIY SAID THAT U.S. AUTHORITIES COULD EXPECT TO HEAR FROM SOVIET SIDE SOON, POSSIBLY TODAY. HE GAVE ASSURANCES THAT MEDLEY WAS BEING WELL-TREATED IN DETENTION.

6. ALTHOUGH WE ASSUMED THAT INCIDENT WOULD BE PICKED UP BY MEDIA IN VIEW OF HIGH VISIBILITY, ONLY ITEM ON POLICE TELEX NET WAS NOTATION THAT CHECKPOINT HAD BEEN TEMPORARILY CLOSED AND WE HAVE HAD NO MEDIA INQUIRIES AS YET. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, WE HAVE MADE THIS MESSAGE LIMDIS AND SUGGEST INFO REFTEL BE HELD CLOSELY FOR TIME BEING.

7. USCOB CONCURS.SELIGMANN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, DETENTION, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, BORDER CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BERLIN01568
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740253-0021
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740957/aaaabwfv.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: BERLIN 1566
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <25 APR 2002 by rowelle0, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <08 OCT 2002 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <08-Oct-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APPREHENSION OF US SOLDIER AT CHECKPOINT CHARLIE
TAGS: PGOV, MOPS, WB, GC, US, (MEDLEY, WILLIAM S)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005